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UNCLAS ADANA 000101

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR MAY 09, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for May 09, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

EKSPRES / BOLGE: Six hundred university students, primarily TKP (Turkish Communist Party) members, traveled to Adana from Ankara on Saturday to stage protests against the U.S. presence at Incirlik Airbase. The protest reportedly took place on the date marking the 33rd anniversary of the 1972 capture and execution of three young Marxist leaders by the military junta in Turkey. On Sunday, a 14-person group (Socialist Platform of the Impoverished People) held a press declaration in the Incirlik district calling for the Base to be shut down.

EKSPRES: A 60-person group of DEHAP members in Adana held a demonstration in support of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. The group chanted slogans saying, "Put an end to the isolation and to military operations."

RADIKAL: Five thousand people participated in a demonstration in Diyarbakir organized by the "Freedom for Headscarves Initiative," chanting slogans and saying "Shoulder to shoulder against cruelty," and "AKP, do not exhaust our patience."

BOLGE: The Anti-Terror Branch of the Mersin Security Directorate reportedly captured two alleged PKK members, who were allegedly readying bomb attacks against public office buildings and facilities of economic importance. Ample devices for manufacturing bombs and an abundant supply of guns were reportedly found in the flat where terrorists took cover.

OZGUR GUNDEM: A 33-person delegation from the Turkmen Businessmen's Association in Iraq will visit Ankara and Gaziantep to hold meetings, announced the Office of the Governor in Gaziantep.

OZGUR GUNDEM: A play by a well-known Turkish author, which was staged in many provinces of Turkey, was reportedly banned in southeastern Turkey. Ozgur Gundem reports that the staging of Aziz Nesin's play, "Yobaz" (The Fanatic), was banned because certain statements in the text of the play referring to "Kurds" and "(Turkish) Armed forces". According to Cizre's Security Directorate, the reports says, the ban was imposed because of information they had about one of the actors' background.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The explosion of a bomb in a military waste dump area reportedly killed an 8-year-old boy and wounded a 10-year-old severely in Serenli village of Mardin province. The father of the wounded boy will file a complaint against the Jandarma.

EVRENSEL / OZGUR GUNDEM: Forty-six village guards in Kekikduzu village of Van province applied to the Office of the Governor and the Sub-governor after the Saray District Jandarma Command communicated to them that a military operation would be conducted along the Iraqi border. The village guards reportedly stated that they no longer wanted to participate in military operations, and are awaiting an official response.

CUMHURIYET / OZGUR GUNDEM: Ministry of Education statistics indicate that the average number of students per class/teacher in the southeastern provinces of Turkey is 60. The average number of students per class decreases sharply in the western provinces, however; the ratio is 22 students per class in Izmir, 33 students per class in Istanbul, and 21 students per class in Ankara.

CUMHURIYET: State Minister Guldal Aksit noted that the number of street children in Turkey in 2004 is 41,982. According to Aksit, children coming from eastern and southeastern provinces of Turkey constitute thirty-seven percent of the street children.

OZGUR GUNDEM: DEHAP Adana Administrators organized a "dinner for peace" and mediated successfully to amicably resolve a feud between the Ozlu and Erden families in Adana.

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